

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 A-01 ABF-01
/098 W

-----019979 010108Z /14

R 310801Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE 9310
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USUN NEW YORK 627
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0604

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR PINR LA (UNFDAC)
SUBJECT: UNFDAC OFFICE IN LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 133700; (B) VIENTIANE 0234; (C) VIENTIANE 174

1. EMBASSY VIENTIANE NOTES WITH SATISFACTION UNFDAC DIRECTOR REXED'S RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE IN REGARD TO UNFDAC'S RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LAO GOVERNMENT (REF A). WE ALSO NOTE REF A'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVE IN LAOS AS IRRESPONSIBLE.

2. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE FOUND UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVE ARNAUD'S INFORMATION ON THE LAO NARCOTICS SITUATION TO BE UNRELIABLE.
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THIS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING DATA ON THE LAO NARCOTICS SITUATION AND ALSO OF ARNAUD'S QUESTIONABLE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING DATA.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH OF THE EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON LPDR-UNFDAC RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY REFTELS B AND C WHICH ALERTED THE DEPARTMENT

TO THE BREAKDOWN IN THE LPDR-UNFDAC NOVEMBER 1977 AGREE-
MENT, RESULTED FROM CANDID AND ACCURATE PRESENTATIONS
BY ARNAUD. WHILE HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE LAO PROPOSAL
TO COMMENCE A CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IN THE LOWLANDS
(REVERSING HIS POSITION ONLY WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
THE PROPOSAL WAS FOUNDERING), ARNAUD SHOWED HIMSELF TO
BE FULLY INFORMED ON THE SITUATION.

4. WE THEREFORE THINK THAT THE RECORD SHOULD SHOW THAT
AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE (WE REALIZE THAT
FULLER INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT),
ARNAUD IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE DID NOT PERFORM "IRRESPONSIBLY."
WE DISAGREED WITH HIM AND OFTEN FOUND HIM TO
BE AN UNRELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION, BUT WE THINK THAT
IN HIS VIEW, AT LEAST, HE WAS MAKING A SINCERE EFFORT
TO PRESERVE AN UNFDAC PRESENCE IN LAOS.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SNAR, PINR, LA, US, UN, UNFDAC
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